Vol. III. Numb. 19.

THE OBSERVATOR.

against Arch-Bishop Laud. *The* Country-man's *Observations thereon. A Scandalous and Villainous Letter sent the* Observator.

From Saturday May the 27th, to Wednesday May the 31st, 1704.

-m. MAster *Observator*, a little more, if you please, of the Princi-ples of *High-Church*, in the fter of their great Apostle, Arch-Bishop They stand plumb to his Principles, and *is is the True Church of* England.

I know but one Church of *England*, and find in the 39 Aricles; I Value and Re-all Good Men of all Religions, but no one of what Religion soever, shall under that nce deprive me of my *Free Birth-Rights* as an *Englishman*.

t more fully to discover to you the Princi-*f High-Church*, in the Character of their great tle, whom they now openly own, I shall you an Account of those Crimes for which as Arraigned, and for which he lost his Life.

ountry-m. This makes me Laugh heartily. at was their great Apostle Hang'd?

Obs. No, but he dy'd after a Judicial manner; was Convicted of Crimes for which he was eaded. Some of the many were,

That he had Traiterously endeavoured to Sub-t the Fundamental Laws and Government of s Kingdom of *England*, and instead thereof to roduce an *Arbitrary* and *Tyrannical Govern-t* against Law; and to that end had Wicked-and Traiterously advised His Majesty, that he ght, at his own *Will* and *Pleasure*, leavy and e Money of his Subjects, without their Con-nt in Parliament; and this he affirmed was arrantable by the Law of God.

Country-m. Hang him, Head him, for a *Popish rbitrary Prelate!* And his followers, the *High-Flyers*, want such an Arch-Bishop to give the same dvice to my Queen, do they? No they shall be Hang'd first.

Obs. That he had, for the better Accomplish-ment of that his Traiterous Design, advised and procured Sermons and other Discourses to be Prea-ched, Printed, and Published, in which the Au-thority of Parliaments, and the Force of the Laws of this Kingdom have been denied; and Absolute and Unlimited Power over the Persons and Estates of His Majesties Subjects maintained and defend-ed, not only in the King, but in himself and other Bishops against Law.

Country-m. This is the true Principle of the *High-Flyers*. I find they are of the same Opinions in all Ages; they won't give the King an Abso-lute Power over our Bodies, unless they can get the same Power over our Souls; and thus Spi-ritual and Temporal Bondage flow from the same Source and Spring of Power.

Obs. That he had by Letters, Messages, Threats and Promises, and by divers other ways, to Jud-ges, and other Ministers of Justice, interrupted and perverted, and at other times, by means afore-said, hath endeavoured to interrupt and pervert the Course of Justice in His Majesties Courts at *Westminster*, and other Courts, to the Subversion of the Laws of this Kingdom, whereby sundry of His Majesties Subjects have been stop't in their just Suits, deprived of their Lawful Rights, and Subjected to his, the said *Lauds* Tyrannical Will, to their Ruin and Destruction.

Country-m. Ha, ha, now I smell a *Popish Arbitrary Rat*. For this reason do the *High-Flyers* rail against the present Judges, as against the present Bishops, because they won't be Threatned, nor Hussed, nor Wheadl'd from doing the Nation Justice; they want another *Jefferies*, as well as another *Laud*; take a Bumper in your way to the good Health of my Lord Chief-Justice *Holt*, and the rest of the Honest Judges.

Obs. I'll Pledge thee with all my heart. Ano-ther Article against *Laud* was, That he had Trai-terously and Corruptly Sold Justice to those who had Causes depending before him, by colour of his *Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*, &c.

Country-m. I don't blame him for that, I blame those that came into his Court, I'd as soon have gone into the *Spanish* Inquisition.

Obs. But what if you were Forceably brought into his Court.

Country-m. Then I would have Towel'd him and his *Proctors*, and *Sirrogueats*, I think they call-'em, I hate 'em, they want an Arch-Bishop *Laud* too, do they?

Obs. Why *Country-man*, thou can'st not keep thy Temper. If thou must out into a Passion at every Turn, thou lt never hear *Lauds* Crimes.

Country-m. You can come to your Point again if you please, tho' I make some Digression: I hope 'tis no Treason for me to say I don t like *Doctors-Commons*, nor *Proctors*, nor any of the Suckers of that Court.

Obs. Prithee Man thou Rav'st: Thou hast had a By-Blow, and hast been under the Discipline of that Court.

Country-m. No, no; but I know those are Pesti-lent Fellows, and what ever you may think of 'em, our Fore-fathers had another Opinion of 'em, I have seen 'em mark'd upon Record.

Obs. Oh rare, *Country-man*, Dost thou deal in Records?

Country-m. Yes I do, and not in such as you deal in, that are Written in long Rolls of Gibbe-rish, and are lock'd up in Cellars at 'tother end of the Town, and in the Tower of *London*, and I can't tell how many Centinels are appointed to keep the Rats and Mice from Eating them up.

Obs. Prithee what sort of Records are thine then?

Country-m. Mine are Written on Stone and Brass, and are Legible to the whole World; I sat on Horse-Back and Read a Record against the *Proctors* at *Rochester*, where is an Alms-House Endow'd by Goodman *Some-Body*, and over the Door on a Stone is a fair Inscription, telling the Reader, that the Design of the Pious Founder of that Charity was, that so many poor Travellers should be Entertain'd there for one Night with good Lodgings and Diet, and in the Morning, when they continued their Journey, they should have so much Money given them, I think 'twas a Groat a piece; *Rogues and Proctors excepted.*

As I jog'd along upon *Bayard*, I thought of the Equallity of joining the Rogues and Proctors together under a particular Exception. But then again I thought that this Exception might Defeat the Design of the Pious Founder, for the present Truſtees might Eſteem all as came to lay hold of the Charity to be Rogues or Proctors, and ſo keep the Sum Appropriated to their own uſe.

Obſ. Well I find there is no Reconciling thee to *Doctors-Commons*, and therfore I'll proceed to Doctor *Laud*, againſt whom another Article was, That he had Traiterouſly cauſed a Book of Canons to be Compoſed without any Lawful Warrant, contrary to the Kings Prerogative, and the Laws and Statutes of the Realm, and the Right of Parliament, many of which Canons he got Surreptitiouſly paſſed in the Convocation, *&c.*

Country-m. This ſignifies little to either you or me. I don't trouble my Head about the Canons or Blunderbuſſes of the Church; let the Convocation but keep us from Blundering Parſons and I ſhall be contented, and never Examine whether the Upper or Lower Houſe be in the Right.

Obſ. Another Article was, That he had Traiterouſly aſſumed to himſelf a Papal and Tyrannical Power in *Eccleſiaſtical* and *Temporal* Matters; and that the ſaid Arch-Biſhop did claim the Kings *Eccleſiaſtical* Jurriſdiction as Incident to his Epiſcopal Office, and not as derived from the Crown of *England*, which Authority he did Exerciſe to the High Contempt of His Royal Majeſty, and the Deſtruction of divers of the Kings Leige People, *&c.*

Country-m. And ſo Mr. *Laud* was Partner with the King, a pretty Popiſh Uſurping Traiterous Prieſt. Enough of this Fellow for this Bout.——

Obſ. Then let's have a little News.

Country-m. Here is ſome News for you in a Letter. If you pleaſe I'll Read it to you.

Mr. *Obſervator*, alias *Cut-Throat*,

YOur Villianous Aſperſions caſt upon the Memory of that late Reverend and Pious Martyr Arch-Biſhop Laud, *raiſes a General Abhorence of your Republican and Seditious Principles in the Hearts of all good Men, whom you endeavour to Seduce to your own Wicked and Traiterous Opinion; by raking the Aſhes of that Sacred Martyr from the Grave, and Expoſing it to the World with ſuch unheard of and malicious Reflections; that no Man that entertains the leaſt thought of Chriſtianity can believe. Whoſe Zeal for the Church of* England, *whoſe Exemplary Life, and Sound Doctrine, deſervedly Intituled him to that Crown of Glory, which is prepared for thoſe who ſuffer Martyrdom for Chriſt and a good Conſcience: Such then was that Bleſſed Martyr, you have thus Villified with ſuch Malice and Contempt, who in Imitation of our Bleſſed Saviour, ſuffer'd with Pleaſure all the Scoffs and Evil Reproaches of a Factious and Prevailing Party, choſing rather to Dye, than ſubmit to the Enthuſiaſm of thoſe Times: Which I can aver, was more than any of your Accurſed Tribe could Conform to; for no ſooner was Monarchy happily reſtored, but the Diſſenting Miniſtry turn'd Cat in Pan, and for Lucre of a Fat Deanary or Rich Biſhoprick, ſtrove which ſhould appear moſt Zealous to aboliſh their Puritanical Doctrine, and profeſs that Excellent Form of Prayer, which, but a little before, they publickly Exclaim'd againſt in the Pulpet, and branded with the falſe Notions of Popery. I could here give ſeveral Reproachful Characters of ſome of your pretended Sanctified Preachers, but think it not worth while to Expoſe what is already ſo viſible to the moſt Diſcerning'ſt part of the World; ſo ſh with my Prayers to God Almighty to open that they may ſee and forſake their Erro the Members of the* Calves-Head-F Tutchin *their Secretary, may ſhare Old* Bradſhaw's *Fate at* Tyburn, *long ſince Merits; and finally that the whole Republi ing Diſſenting Crew whereſoever they may may all Dye like Dogs, and like D gs be Bu* Hide-Park-Corner, *and have no other Rem but the Three Corner'd Tree, there as a ſtan nument of their Accurſed Memories.*

A

Obſ. This is the true Spirit and Te the Party, this is their Religion, this Practice, and by the Concluſion theſe Prayers which they wiſh ſhould Compo Common-Prayer-Book. From ſuch Men, Religion, and ſuch Martyrs *Good Lord deliv*

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